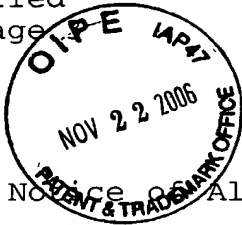


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REMARKS

A Notice of Allowance for claims 3, 7-13 and 16-18 was issued by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on October 3, 2006. Applicants herein amend the specification in order to insert the filing date of a priority application and to update the status of a priority application into the priority paragraph. Applicants maintain that this Amendment raises no issue of new matter. Accordingly, upon entry of this Amendment, claims 3, 7-13 and 16-18 will be pending.

In accordance with their duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, applicants would like to direct the Examiner's attention to the following references. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(4) provides that an Information Disclosure Statement will be considered if it is filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. §1.114. Accordingly, this Information Disclosure Statement is being timely filed.

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted as a supplement to the Information Disclosure Statements filed March 29, 2002 and June 4, 2004. The applicants direct the Examiner's attention to the following references which are listed on the enclosed PTO-1449 form attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.

1. PCT International Publication No. WO 00/20621, International Application No. PCT/US99/23303, published April 13, 2000, on behalf of The Trustees of Columbia University in the City of New York (**Exhibit B**).

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2. U.S. Patent Publication No. US2003/0059423, published March 27, 2003, for Stern, et al.
3. U.S. Patent Publication No. US2001/0053357, published December 20, 2001, for Stern, et al.
4. U.S. Serial No. 09/263,312, now U.S. Patent No. 6,555,340, issued April 29, 2003, for Schmidt, et al.
5. U.S. Serial No. 09/167,705, now U.S. Patent No. 7,081,241, issued July 25, 2006, for Schmidt, et al.

Applicants request that the Examiner review these references and make them of record in the subject application.

Applicants further note that references 2-5 are patents or patent applications upon which the subject application relies on for an earlier effective date under 35 U.S.C. §120. Under 37 C.F.R. 1.98(d)(1), copies of these references are not required to be submitted in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement.


If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, applicants' undersigned attorneys invite the Examiner to telephone them at the number provided below.

No fee, other than the \$790.00 RCE fee for a large entity, is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Amendment. However, if any additional fee is required, authorization is hereby

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given to charge the amount of such fee to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,



I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited this date with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.


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u/21/06

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